



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

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November 14, 1994

Mr. Peter D. Stevenson, OSC
Emergency Response Branch
Region VIII
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
999 18th Street, Suite 500

Re: Remediation Report for Leeds
Silver Reclamation Site, (5M site)

Dear Mr. Stevenson:

This is in response to your letter of October 4, 1994, regarding reclamation of the Leeds site. We wish to express our support for the cleanup effort. While our limited understanding of the site indicates it may only be a threat locally to shallow ground water in the immediate area, it appears unlikely that it would contaminate large amounts of ground water because of the geologic situation. It seems prudent as a minimum to complete the proposed project.

However, we believe the site may be a threat to surface water resources in the area. The underlying Triassic rocks are sparsely vegetated and their fine grained character promotes runoff. Runoff from the site is into Quail Creek Reservoir and the Virgin River which are major downstream sources of irrigation and culinary supplies before it joins with the Colorado. The report we received did not discuss the toxicity of the tailings and the ore stockpiles. We believe these need to be covered unless run off is determined to be neutral. For the latter reasons, we believe clean up of the site should closely follow the USBR plan, as much as practicable.

Any proposed discharge from the site to wetlands or other surface waters should be reviewed by this office prior to discharge. This would enable us to review such proposals for compliance with State Water Quality Standards.

If you have questions, please call Mack Croft or Steve McNeal at 801-538-6146.

Sincerely,

Fred C. Pehrson, P.E., Manager
Permits, Compliance & Monitoring Branch

FCP:MGC:mhf

cc: Wayne Thomas, District Engineer
Jason Knowlton, Division of Environmental Response/Remediation
William Dawson, Southwest Utah Public Health Department

P:STEVENS0.LTR
FILE: LEEDS SILVER RECLAMATION SITE

